Information Systems Advisory Council (ISAC)

Past, Present and Future

September 14, 2005 – Santa Fe Meeting

Why was the ISAC Formulated?

- Throughout 1997 and 1998:
  - The Executive Leadership Group (ELG) of the Indian Health Leadership Council (IHLC) became concerned about and involved in information systems issues that were Agency wide in nature:
    - billing/collections
    - health data/public health data
    - telecommunications
    - strategic plan for information systems
  - ELG chartered the Information Systems Workgroup (ISW) to begin working on Information Systems issues. The ISW reported to the ELG.

Information Systems Workgroup

- Chaired by Keith Longie and included ITU Membership
- Chartered by the ELG to:

  1) develop a negotiations guide for IRM functions, services, and funds;

  2) review and comment on DRAFT IRM Strategic Plan;

  3) describe information and information systems needed for IHS to carry out its core functions;

  4) define clinical and fiscal integration needs to accommodate needs related to billing, budget formulation, and public health;

  5) provide recommendations for management and staffing infrastructure for IRM;

  6) provide solutions to our immediate third party billing needs; and

  7) establish an Information Systems Advisory Council (ISAC).

What is the ISAC?

- A committee comprised of tribal and IHS representatives that guide the development of our information systems.

- Administratively accountable to Dr. Grim, IHS Director through Mr. Longie, IHS CIO.

- Advises on direction, priorities and resource allocation through development, review and approval of Strategic Plan, Annual Operations Plan and Investment Reviews.

- Enhances collaboration and communication between ITU's.

- Provides advocacy for IT resources and promotes partnerships with states and other federal agencies.

What has the ISAC Done?

- Assisted in developing the OIT strategic plan.
- Annually defined the information technology priorities.
- Stimulated the development of an Annual Work Plan for its review.
- Advocated for resources by testifying to a Congressional Appropriation Committee.
- Provided periodic updates to ELG.
- Submitted recommendations to Director.
- Established workgroups to solve issues like data quality.
- Improved communication and collaboration with ITU's.

What are ISAC's Future roles?

- As the importance and complexity of our information systems grow, it is essential that the ISAC continue to perform its current roles.

- Future emphasis should be placed in establishing a governance role that assists in defining the vision, goals and objectives of our strategic plan, approves an Annual Operations Plans, helps to establish metrics, and monitors performance and the success of our activities.